

## Guideline for Mobile MRI Units

Mobile MRI units providing hospital services (for billing purposes) shall meet the requirements of Chapter 246-320 WAC regardless of their length of stay. This represents a few common obstacles facilities have had to overcome to meet the rules. Several items that need special attention are listed below. While each project is unique, specific conditions may arise which must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The following checklist is a guideline for installing mobile MRI units.

- ❑ If the utility service connections are from existing utility services within the hospital, then Construction Review Services (CRS) must review all connections regardless if the mobile unit is providing hospital services or not. When services are provided directly from the utility company, and the patient care services are not to be provided by the hospital, CRS are not required.
- ❑ Provide 30' -0" of separation between outside air intake and HVAC or generator exhaust. Current mobile MRI units accomplish this by locating the generator and HVAC exhaust at one end of the unit, and air inlets at the opposite end.
- ❑ There shall be no building HVAC outdoor air intakes within 30' -0" of the mobile MRI units generator exhaust or HVAC exhaust.

*NOTE: The exhausts from the mobile MRI units that have been reviewed are located on the opposite side of the door to the mobile MRI unit and beneath the floor level. Due to the high velocities of the exhaust it would be recommended that they do not exhaust to a pedestrian area. It's also required that exhaust directed toward a building be planned so as to not channel the air back to the air intakes.*

- ❑ There shall be no building exhaust vents within 30' -0" of the mobile MRI unit outside air intake, except plumbing vent stakes which may be no less than 10' -0" from outside air intakes.

*NOTE: The separation of the exhaust to the intake of the mobile MRI units HVAC review are slightly less than 30' -0"; however, in our professional opinion, we saw no reason for this to be of concern. The air being exhausted was exhausted at a high velocity and low level. The intake was on an adjacent surface and hooded. The air would be sufficiently diluted by the time it would reach the intake. Also, the air that would re-enter the system would be the same that was exhausted. Since there is no chance of someone infecting his or her self, CRS does not foresee an issue with current arrangement of intake and exhaust on the units reviewed.*

- ❑ If the mobile MRI unit or hospital is not sprinklered, the mobile MRI unit shall be sited more than 20' -0" from the building. Awnings and overhangs are considered part of the building, and measurements shall be taken from the edge of such.
- ❑ A 9' -0" clear area (exclusion zone) shall be maintained around the back and sides of the unit at all times while the unit has power. A barrier shall be provided that is sufficient to keep cars and pedestrians away such as fencing, ropes, and cones.
- ❑ Utility hook-ups shall be protected from wear by traffic. Bare cables shall be concealed in a raceway or wood structure that provides adequate protection.

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- ❑ At anytime the mobile MRI unit is parked onsite, in the event of a fire, the smoke detector shall be connected to a device that will notify hospital staff outside of the mobile MRI unit. When the mobile MRI unit is onsite (even when not in use), it is the responsibility of the hospital. If a fire does occur then staff should be notified immediately to take the appropriate actions.
- ❑ Fire Alarm communications can be obtained via an auto dialer connected to the smoke detectors, or an audible device located on the outside of the mobile MRI unit, or connection to the hospital fire alarm system. The appropriate device would be determined by site conditions.
- ❑ Emergency communications (nurse call) may be obtained via telephone.
- ❑ When sedation is planned, medical gas may be portable as long as necessary precautions are taken to ensure the safety of the patients. Only non-ferrous cylinders and assemblies shall be used. Storage shall be limited to a maximum of one tank for use and one tank as a spare.
- ❑ Sanitizing gels are an acceptable substitute to hand washing within the unit when a hand wash sink is located conveniently inside the hospital. The exception would be when the procedures being performed within the mobile MRI unit require hand washing due to visible dirt or contamination with proteinaceous body substances.
- ❑ When restroom facilities are not provided in the mobile MRI unit. Patients shall be provided a restroom convenient to areas where they will be waiting. They shall also be reminded to use the restroom before they enter the mobile MRI unit. Provide disposable/plastic bedpan and urinal.
- ❑ Patient protection from elements can be obtained by other means than covered walkways. Snow shall be kept clear of pathways to and from the mobile MRI unit. Effective means of abating ice shall be used when conditions exist. Protecting the patient from dust & wind also need to be considered.
- ❑ The concrete pads for the foundation of the mobile MRI unit do not need to be reviewed by the Department. Installation shall be per the manufacture's detailed specifications.
- ❑ Housekeeping shall be provided. Storage of housekeeping supplies may be within the hospital janitor's closet.
- ❑ Non-ferrous fire extinguishers shall be provided in each room. Ferrous fire extinguishers shall not be allowed within the mobile MRI unit.
- ❑ If used for inpatients, the mobile MRI unit must accommodate a stretcher or a gurney.

*“Construction Review Services protects and improves the health and safety of people in Washington by providing professional consultation and review for the design and construction of licensed or certified care facilities for our customers.”*

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